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Lady Bears bounce back

by John Middelhoff

It is an old adage in sports reporting that sometimes the score doesn't really indicate the true nature of the game in question. This fact was very much evidenced this past week by Northern's Girls Basketball team. On Monday evening (1/22) the Lady Bears topped the very tough Lady Shamocks of Trinity High School out 44 to 32, so one would naturally assume it was a total blowout. Not so. Northern did not play a pretty winning game they had trouble scoring. Let me rephrase that statement, they got the shots they just wouldn't go in.

Trinity, led by Senior Superior Michele Venzky's 17 points just had too much firepower for the Lady Bears to handle. Actually Trinity had more players scoring points to help their offensive effort. Northern, with Gretchen Klaus' 12 points leading the way would claw their way back on this contest, but just could not come up with that one big bucket that would have made a difference.

On Tuesday (1/23) the Lady Bears went back to the Division III wars, with an afternoon game against Shippensburg. Northern was able to come back against the Lady Greyhounds and pull out a 40 to 32 in this game. The score might indicate that Northern had an easy time of it. Not so. Northern had a late night game against Trinity on Monday night, so it was a tired group of girls that Coach Rick Speck sent out against Shippensburg. Northern was led, once again, by Junior Gretchen Klaus, got offensive support from Nancy Jacoby (9), Key Kula (8), Amy Monich (6) and Rebecca Fox (4).

This past Friday (1/26) the Lady Bears played host to the Boiling Spring Bubblettes in what can only be described as a mismatch. For the Lady Bears, that one was over in a knockout off Camp Hill also in second half play. But that should serve as a warning to the Northern faithful that Big Spring will not be a push-over and will improve offense display to take the game away. When the smoke

cleared at the end of the first quarter Northern had a 20 to 11 lead that would only get larger. Gretchen Klaus proved the way as she hit for fourteen points in that quarter alone. The entire Northern offense really showed that their biggest offensive output of the season as Amy moved in 10 points, while Becky nailed 13. The other two starters, Nancy Jacoby and Key Kula, likewise added the count with each scoring 8 points each and both helped the Lady Bears control the game. If the girls were using this game as a warm-up for the coming battle Tuesday (1/26) at Big Spring, they certainly put a together.

The game at Big Spring will have a significant bearing on the second half aspirations of the Lady Bears. Northern got a big boost when the Lady Bulldogs outscored Northern in every quarter to reach the win.

On Wednesday (1/24) the Lady Bears really did it, outscoring the Boiling Spring Bubblettes 44 to 24. Northern could not buy a bucket in the Shamocks' second half to talk the win. The Bears were feeling right. The Bears only managed eight points in sixteen minutes of play, but four points in each of the final ten minutes. Against Chris Folsch a very important offensive win.

Friday night (1/26) the Bears took a trip to "Bubble Town" to battle the Boiling Spring Bubblettes in the Division III rematch. This contest was in the books as an "easy" game and an "easy" win for Boiling Springs. By any means, we simply imply that Northern was playing hard with the problem is Boiling Springs just was not able to score more as they went Northern 62 to 33. For the Bears it was a total of a second bag. On one hand Junior Center Rebecca Fox had the most productive game of the year, as 21 points in scoring, with 11 rebounds. On the other hand, Gretchen Klaus was able to keep Chris Folsch under wraps as he was limited to just one field goal for two points.

Polar Bears struggle

by John Middelhoff

Northern Boys Basketball team has two big opportunities to improve its record slip right on the window this past week.

On Friday night (1/19) the Bears played East Penn. The second half game underway on Tuesday night will be a real challenge. Northern's opponents that night will be the Shippensburg Greyhounds. Shippensburg ended the first half as divisional champions, and have only lost twice this year so far. As by the Bears would be a huge underdog in that regard.

Against East Penn, Northern was able to outscore the Panthers 29 to 10 in the second half, but it just wasn't enough to overcome a big lead 14 to 10 enjoyed by East Penn in the first half. This, unfortunately, has been the story in other Northern games this year. The Bears either get off to a slow start themselves or their opponents just come out better than a fortress, or a combination of both. Now Northern has to back up as hard, but come up short.

In the East Penn contest, the Bears scoring was led by Senior Len Fierman, who found the hoop for fifteen points. Len was aided by Chris Folsch (12) and Greg Jancouso (10) as double figure scorers but it wasn't enough.

Against Lower Dauphin, it was pretty much the same kind of picture. The Falcons hammered the Bears 43 to 27 in the first half, and proved it was no fluke as they dominated them in the second half as well 33 to 21. It was without saying, that playing back to back games on consecutive nights just has to take the sweat out of you, but don't take anything away from L.D. they were tough.

Northern was led once again by Len Fierman (14), who seems to have found the basket, and Chris Folsch (12) who has been steady all year. But the Falcon combination of Castille (22), Miller (14) and Hoffman (12), was more than enough to offset Northern's offensive effort. Two wins at this point on the season.

Lady Bears handle Penn

by John Middelhoff

Friday night (1/19) the Lady Polar Bears put together their first game to Shippensburg. Northern was able to come back against the Lady Greyhounds and pull out a 40 to 32 in this game. The score might indicate that Northern had an easy time of it. Not so. Northern had a late night game against Trinity on Monday night, so it was a tired group of girls that Coach Rick Speck sent out against Shippensburg. Northern was led, once again, by Junior Gretchen Klaus, got offensive support from Nancy Jacoby (9), Key Kula (8), Amy Monich (6) and Rebecca Fox (4).

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Boys basketball drops two

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Polar Bear wrestlers make it three straight

by John Middelhoff

Everything got started for the Bears when Chad Roush got pinned last opponent in 119 lbs. and concluded with Dave Hahn's technical fall at 160 lbs. In between Northern wrestlers cleared up the points by losing all this big win. Besides the already mentioned victories by Chad and Dave, the Polar Bears also received a fall from

Northern pulled out the surprise and beat New Oxford 93 to 18.

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Chad Bentley, 145 lbs. and Big division from Jerry Sommer (125), Greg Myers (130), Mike Vaughn (115), Alan Ayers (140) and Kevin Leason (152).

All and all it was a big victory for Northern, and with their straight wins the Polar Bears should be proud and ready for the next person of their schedule.

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This game was over in a hurry for the Lady Bubblettes.
Photo by David March

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